

For immediate release

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Missouri's unemployment rate grew slightly in October

JEFFERSON CITY -- Missouri's unemployment rate edged up two-tenths of a point in October, but was still at a low 3.1 percent following normal declines in amusement and recreation and in business services.

The rise in the unemployment level was accompanied by an increase in the state's total employment, which grew by 26,000 to nearly 2.9 million jobs. Therefore, although the number of available jobs increased in October, the labor force did likewise, growing by nearly 34,000 to nearly 3 million people.

"Employment and unemployment can both increase at the same time when the labor force is increasing, as it usually does in the fall," said Bill Niblack, labor market information manager, Missouri Division of Workforce Development.

Non-farm payroll employment grew by more than 14,000 jobs from September, reaching nearly 2.8 million in October. Much of this growth is typical, as school and college employment continued to increase. Employment in state and local government, which includes public schools and colleges, increased by 7,000 jobs, while private educational services gained more than 3,000 jobs. Employment in the transportation and utilities industry group grew by more than 1,000 jobs, reflecting job gains in school bus transportation.

Manufacturing employment jumped by nearly 6,000 jobs. Most of this was in the automobile industry and reflected individuals returning to work following model changeover layoffs. Non-durable goods manufacturing also experienced a slight increase in employment with the addition of 800 jobs, with no businesses reporting job losses. Construction employment edged down a bit further from the peak reached in August. Employment dipped by nearly 2,000 jobs from September, to less than 147,000 in October.

Other than education-related industries, most industries in the service-producing sector showed only small net changes over the month. In the service industries, typical drops in amusement and recreation and in business services offset the increases in education. Normal drops in eating and drinking places were more than offset by gains in general merchandise stores and some other retail industries, resulting in a relatively small net gain of nearly 2,500 jobs in retail trade.

Over the past year, non-farm employment has grown by more than 31,000 jobs, or 1.1 percent, to a new total of nearly 2.8 million. Most of the over-the-year job growth has continued to be in the service-producing sector, which gained 39,500 jobs. The service industries grew by 24,000 jobs including nearly 11,000 jobs in business services and 4,500 in social services. Retail trade employment gained more than 6,000 jobs over the year, while finance, insurance and real estate employment grew by nearly 3,000 jobs.

Despite the upsurge in October, manufacturing employment has declined by more than 7,000 jobs from last year's total. The electronic equipment industry experienced the greatest decrease, shedding more than 3,000 jobs.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (OCTOBER 2000), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2000), AND YEAR AGO (OCTOBER 1999)

	OCT 2000	SEP 2000	AUG 2000	OCT 1999		OCT 2000	SEP 2000	AUG 2000	OCT 1999
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U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	3.6	3.8	4.1	3.8	Atchison	1.4	1.6	2.4	1.0
MISSOURI	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.4	Audrain	2.9	2.8	2.4	1.6
ST. LOUIS MSA	3.3	3.5	3.4	2.9	Barton	2.2	1.9	2.1	1.8
Franklin	3.3	4.1	3.9	2.5	Bates	3.8	3.2	3.5	2.8
Jefferson	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.2	Benton	5.6	5.3	4.6	3.3

Lincoln	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.1	Caldwell	3.7	3.3	4.2	4.0
St. Charles	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.5	Carroll	2.8	2.0	2.9	2.1
St. Louis County	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.1	Cedar	3.0	2.8	3.1	2.5
Warren	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.6	Chariton	5.6	4.2	3.6	3.8
St. Louis City	6.2	5.8	5.9	4.8	Clark	4.2	3.1	3.4	3.1
KANSAS CITY MSA	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.6	Cooper	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.4
Cass	2.5	2.2	2.3	1.7	Crawford	5.7	5.4	5.3	3.4
Clay	1.9	1.7	1.6	2.4	Dade	3.9	3.3	3.3	2.4
Clinton	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.9	Dallas	6.6	5.3	5.9	3.9
Jackson	3.6	3.2	3.2	2.8	Daviess	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.2
Lafayette	2.9	2.4	3.0	2.9	DeKalb	2.0	1.5	2.2	1.5
Platte	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.7	Dent	6.5	4.8	4.5	3.9
Ray	2.7	2.4	3.1	4.3	Douglas	5.6	5.2	3.8	3.5
SPRINGFIELD MSA	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.6	Dunklin	4.6	3.8	4.9	3.1
Christian	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.4	Gasconade	2.7	3.2	2.8	1.7
Greene	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.6	Gentry	2.6	2.2	2.5	1.8
Webster	2.8	2.6	2.4	2.0	Grundy	3.3	2.7	2.3	1.9
JOPLIN MSA	3.5	3.3	3.1	2.4	Harrison	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.1
Jasper	3.1	2.7	2.5	1.9	Henry	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.3
Newton	4.3	4.3	4.4	3.5	Hickory	6.9	5.5	5.6	2.9
COLUMBIA MSA	1.1	1.0	1.2	0.8	Holt	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.1
Boone	1.1	1.0	1.2	0.8	Howard	2.8	2.1	2.5	2.2
ST. JOSEPH MSA	3.1	2.6	2.4	2.3	Iron	7.1	6.8	5.8	5.7
Andrew	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	Johnson	2.7	2.4	2.5	1.8
Buchanan	3.2	2.7	2.4	2.4	Knox	3.5	1.9	2.2	1.9
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	2.5	1.5	1.6	1.0	Laclede	3.7	3.8	2.9	3.0
Adair	2.3	1.4	1.4	0.9	Lewis	2.4	2.1	2.2	1.7
Schuyler	3.3	1.7	2.8	1.5	Linn	10.4	8.8	7.0	7.7
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	4.5	4.2	4.5	2.8	Livingston	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.4
Butler	4.1	3.9	4.4	2.7	McDonald	4.4	4.3	3.9	3.3
Carter	4.3	3.8	3.7	3.4	Macon	4.4	3.5	3.4	2.5
Ripley	6.1	5.4	5.3	3.0	Madison	5.9	5.6	5.4	3.7
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	3.4	2.5	2.3	2.5	Mercer	2.3	1.6	2.0	2.0
Camden	3.4	2.5	2.0	2.7	Monroe	4.4	3.5	3.7	2.6
Miller	3.4	2.5	2.8	2.1	Montgomery	3.4	3.0	3.0	2.5
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	3.4	3.1	3.0	2.4	Morgan	3.9	2.7	2.4	2.0
Bollinger	4.4	3.9	3.9	2.8	Nodaway	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6
Cape Girardeau	2.5	2.4	2.2	1.9	Ozark	3.9	2.9	2.8	2.6
Mississippi	5.7	4.5	4.3	3.3	Pemiscot	6.5	5.4	6.3	4.4
New Madrid	4.0	3.7	4.2	2.8	Perry	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.4
Scott	3.8	3.6	3.5	2.9	Pettis	3.1	2.6	2.8	2.3
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.2	1.8	2.4	1.4	Pike	3.4	3.0	3.7	2.3
Callaway	2.1	2.0	2.3	1.3	Polk	2.8	2.1	2.3	2.2
Cole	1.8	1.7	2.3	1.2	Pulaski	4.9	5.0	4.3	4.7
Moniteau	2.5	2.0	2.3	1.2	Putnam	2.7	2.2	2.3	2.1
Osage	4.3	1.7	3.0	3.1	Randolph	3.3	3.0	4.0	2.1
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	3.9	3.1	2.9	2.7	Reynolds	6.5	5.8	5.8	2.7
Howell	3.7	3.2	2.8	2.5	St. Clair	3.5	2.9	3.4	2.6
Oregon	3.4	2.5	2.9	2.9	Ste. Genevieve	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.0
Shannon	5.1	3.0	3.3	3.3	Saline	2.4	2.1	2.4	1.8
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.1	Scotland	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6
Barry	2.8	2.3	2.3	2.1	Shelby	5.1	4.8	5.2	4.9
Lawrence	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.1	Stoddard	4.1	3.8	3.2	2.8
MARION-RALLS LMA	3.8	3.2	3.4	2.2	Stone	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.4
Marion	3.8	3.3	3.4	2.1	Sullivan	2.2	1.8	1.6	1.3
Ralls	3.8	3.1	3.7	2.4	Taney	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.4
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.3	2.2	2.5	1.8	Texas	5.9	5.1	5.2	7.2
Maries	2.7	2.2	3.4	1.6	Vernon	2.6	2.4	2.8	1.6
Phelps	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.9	Wayne	7.3	6.3	6.3	5.0
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	5.9	5.6	5.4	4.3	Worth	4.3	3.3	3.9	3.5

St. Francois	5.7	5.3	5.1	4.2	Wright	6.2	4.7	4.3	3.7
Washington	6.5	6.5	6.0	4.6					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.
PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, IN COOPERATION
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